

ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1960.

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## Councillors.

Chairman	-	-	-	Councillor A. Barton, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	-	-	-	Councillor J. Strange.
Councillor M. J. Evans				Councillor F. Edwards,
„ H. J. Reed				B.E.M., J.P.
„ F. R. Salvage			„	J. D. Rees
„ B. C. Edwards			„	J. L. Hewins
„ F. H. Belcher			„	A. P. Griffiths
„ W. G. Cole			„	T. H. Coleman,
„ (Mrs.) F. Coleman				B.E.M.
„ W. C. H. Ford.			„	F. Matthews
			„	I Thompson.
			„	L. Jenkins

## Officers:

Clerk & Solicitor	-	-	-	N. C. Bizley
Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer	-	-	-	T. H. Dixon
Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-	Dr. H. V. M. Jones
Engineer & Surveyor	-	-	-	M. T. Benjamin
Public Health Inspector	-	-	-	Lloyd G. Hale
Deputy Clerk	-	-	-	C. Knight
Deputy Treasurer	-	-	-	C. Lavin



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ABERCARN, MON.  
1960.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,

Once again it affords me the greatest pleasure to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

One does not need the mind of an unidealist to realise that environmental and preventive work cannot easily be measured in terms of nett gains or nett losses nor can a review of one single year provide any useful statistical information. In very many cases of environmental and preventive work the results can only be compared after a decade or so.

Tuberculosis is a classical example of this, while Plague, Typhus, Smallpox and Cholera the one time scourge of mankind were conquered by persistent environmental and preventive work. While as recently as 1880, Scarlet Fever accounted for, from 4 to 6% of all deaths.

It can rightly be said,

“ So naturalists observe, a flea  
Hath smaller fleas that on him prey  
And these have smaller fleas to bite 'em  
And so proceed add infinitum.”

Thus in their wake we have the Salmonella strains of organisms, the various responsible organisms for acute Infantile Poliomyelitis and other enteroviruses such as the Coxsackie, and Echo group which often times makes diagnosis difficult.

In conclusion, we have Cancer, Coronary Thrombosis Leukemia, together with Bronchitis to contend with. I am of

the opinion that the next 50 years will see the conquering of these diseases which at the moment cause the greatest possible anxiety.

Area of Abercarn Urban District Area ...	9,543 acres
Population—Registrar-General's Estimate	18,800
Inhabited Houses ... ..	5,546
No. of Houses owned by the Council ...	1,594
Rateable Value ... ..	1958 £112,690
	1959 £132,347
	1960 £137,354
Product of Penny Rate ... ..	1957/58 £412/0/0
	1958/59 £418/0/0
	1959/60 £511/0/0
	1960/61 £517/0/0

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Births.

	1958.	1959.	1960.
Males ... ..	154	168	170
Females ... ..	159	156	171
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	313	324	341
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate of 1,000 of the Population ... .. 18.08

### Stillbirths.

	1958.	1959	1960.
Stillbirth Rate of 1,000 of the Population ... ..	0.42	0.75	0.47

### DEATHS.

	1958.	1959	1960.
Females .. ..	101	114	79
Males ... ..	126	98	95
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	227	212	174
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	1960.
Live Births ... ..	341
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..	18.12
Still-births ... ..	9
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	25.7
Infant deaths ... ..	7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	20.5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—	
Legitimate ... ..	20.8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—	
Illegitimate ... ..	—
(This rate is based on numbers too small to be of significance).	
Neo Natal (first four weeks) ... ..	5
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births ... ..	1.5%
Maternal deaths (including abortion) ... ..	—
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still- births ... ..	—
Death rate per 1,000 population ... ..	9.25

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

#### Number of Deaths under One Year:

	1958.	1959.	1960.
Boys ... ..	2	5	5
Girls ... ..	3	5	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	10	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infantile Mortality Rate ... ..	...	...	20.52

## CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES.

				0 to 1 week.	1 to 4 weeks.	2 weeks to one year.
All Causes	...	...	...	5	—	2
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia (All forms)	...	...	...	—	—	1
Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	1	—	—
Premature Births	...	...	...	1	—	—
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Violence	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Causes	...	...	...	3	—	—
				<hr/> 5 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

## ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS.

			1958.	1959.	1960.
Bronchitis	...	...	24	29	21
Pneumonia	...	...	7	6	5
Other Forms	...	...	3	4	4
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...		34	39	30
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## CANCER DEATHS.

			1958.	1959.	1960.
Males	...	...	17	19	16
Females	...	...	19	11	14
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	..		36	30	30
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Infectious Diseases.

The Principal Notifiable Diseases are Smallpox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Continued Fever.

There was one death from Whooping Cough during the year 1960.

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1960.

1959.						1960.	
M.	F.					M.	F.
114	98	ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	95	79
		Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	...			3	—
		Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...	...		—	—
		Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
		Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
		Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—
		Meningococcal Infections	...	...		—	—
		Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
		Measles	...	...	...	—	—
		Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases				—	—
		Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...			2	4
		Malignant Neoplasm—Lung Bronchus				3	—
		Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	...	...		—	1
		Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	...	...		—	4
		Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	11	5
		Leukaemia, Alekaemia	...	...	...	—	—
		Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
		Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...			6	10
		Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...		16	10
		Hypertension of Heart Disease	...			3	4
		Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	11	15
		Other Circulatory Disease	...	...		3	4

Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	15	6
Other Disease of Respiratory System					4	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...				2	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...				1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...		1	—
Hyper-plasia of Prostrate	...	...			—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...				—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...			3	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases					7	6
Motor Vehicles Accidents	...	...			2	—
All other Accidents	...	...	...		—	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1
Homocide and Operations of War	...				—	—

### ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Diseases.	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 plus	Total
Scarlet													
Fever ...	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping													
Cough ...	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Puerperal													
Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	3	1	2	5	5	38	14	5	18	5	17	4	117
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	1	5	7	5	41	16	5	18	5	17	4	128

Total Number of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups:



## NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

			1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	10	2	6
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	117
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	30	1	12	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	4	—	—	—
Meningitis	...	...	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	16	14	14	12
Whooping Cough	...	...	45	4	—	4
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	4	2	16	2
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Meales	...	...	186	130	17	1
			<hr/> 286 <hr/>	<hr/> 161 <hr/>	<hr/> 62 <hr/>	<hr/> 142 <hr/>

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This service continues to be carried out by the County Council.

There were no reported cases of Diphtheria during the year 1960. If such cases are notified, isolation facilities exist at Bedwellty and Alt-yr-yn Hospitals.

Children under five years of age are innoculated by Assistant Medical Officers from the County Council's Public Health Department at the District Clinics. School children by the Area Medical Officer at the Schools.

## Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation—at any time since 1st January, 1937 ;—

Age at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection as regards B).

	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total.
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents during the six months ended 31st December, 1960).	49	217	410	676
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e., subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the six months ended 31st December, 1960.	—	—	1,059	1,059

As can be seen from the above-mentioned tables your Area Health Officer is pleased to report a substantial increase in the completed course of injections and the reinforcing injections in regard to Diphtheria.

The Council will be aware that in general over the last few years primary immunisation and reinforcing injections in regard to diphtheria have not been preceded with, owing to the concentrated efforts made in regard to injecting against Infantile Anterior Poliomyelitis.

#### Vaccination—Smallpox.

Vaccination for the year totalled ... 113

The following table is submitted for your information :—

**(I) Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated)  
during the period.**

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1	1—2	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	47	28	10	6	6	97
Number re-vaccinated ..	—	—	1	1	14	16

**(2) Number of Cases Specially Reported During Period  
(Age Groups as above).**

(a) Generalised Vaccinia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal Encephalo- myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Death from complications of vaccination other than (a) or (b) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

**INFANT WELFARE CENTRE ATTENDANCES.**

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres for the year 1960 are set out in the following table for your information:—

Centre.	Under 1.	1960.	1959.	1954-58.
Cwmcarn ...	86	87	89	128
Newbridge ...	156	232	128	151
Hafodyrynys ...	48	29	35	57
Pantside ...	22	20	11	9
	<hr/> 312 <hr/>	<hr/> 368 <hr/>	<hr/> 263 <hr/>	<hr/> 345 <hr/>

Centre.	Under 1	Over 1	Over 2	Total.
		Under 2.	Under 5.	
Cwmcarn ...	1,450	432	317	2,076
Newbridge ...	2,050	321	294	2,497
Hafodyrynys ...	547	150	167	866
Pantside ...	94	11	11	116
	<hr/> 4,141 <hr/>	<hr/> 914 <hr/>	<hr/> 789 <hr/>	<hr/> 5,555 <hr/>
Attendances at the Cwmcarn Centre ...				2,076
Attendances at the Newbridge Centre ...				2,497
Attendances at the Hafodyrynys Centre ...				866
Attendances at the Pantside Centre ...				116
				<hr/>
Total Attendances for the year 1960 ...				5,555 <hr/>

### SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

				Non-		Total.			
				Pulmonary.	Plumonary.				
				M.	F.	M.	F.		
Total Cases on Register									
31-12-1959	...	...	94	84	15	17	210		
New Cases, 1960			...	5	7	—	1	13	
Deaths	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2	
Recovered			...	...	2	2	—	1	5
Removed for Other									
Reasons	...	...	...	3	1	—	—	4	
Removed from District			...	1	1	—	—	2	
Total Cases on Register									
31-12-60	...	...	91	87	15	17	210		

As can be seen from the above-mentioned tables, there are still a large number of people on the Tubercuolsis Register, which is kept in the Public Health Department. A large proportion of these persons were notified as long as 20 years ago, and if careful research was given to such cases I am of the opinion that they could be conveniently removed from the Register, and the total figure accordingly appreciably reduced.

# **Annual Return of Food Poisoning Out-Breaks in the Area of the Abercarn Urban District Council for the 1st January, 1960, to 31st December, 1960.**

In accordance with Circular 46/49 (Wales) dated 24th May, 1949, Returns as per Memo 188/MED. (Appendix I) are submitted herewith.

## **Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications (corrected).**

Local Authority Abercarn Urban District Council, year 1st January, 1960, to 31st December, 1960.

### **(2nd) Food Poisoning Notification Corrected Return to R.G.**

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
1	—	—	1	2

### **(3rd) Outbreaks due to identified Agents.**

Total Outberaks ... 2	Total Cases ... 2
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### **(3rd A) Outbreaks due to Salmonella Organisms ... 2**

### **(4th) Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.**

Total Outbreaks ... 3	Total Cases ... 3
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### **(5th) Outbreaks.**

Single Cases	...	...	5
Agent Identified	...	...	2
Unknown	...	...	3

## **FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS. SUMMARY OF DETAILS.**

Detailed enquiries were made in regard to the five single cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year. Only two were bacteriologically confirmed. In no case was it possible to obtain any unconsumed suspect foods that were eaten prior to the onset of symptoms, except in one case several unconsumed sausages were submitted for analysis. These were found upon examination to be bacteriologically sterile.

Faecal samples were obtained from all the five single cases and only in two instances was confirmation obtainable, and Salmonella Typhimurium was proved to be the cause. In one of the two confirmed cases the patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Newport.



## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.**

### *Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (Lon.), D.P.H. (Liv.).

### *Public Health Inspector :*

LLOYD G. HALE, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare Services.**

These services are maintained by the County Council at Newbridge, Cwmcarn, Hafodyrynys and Trinant.

### **Isolation Hospitals.**

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's Area, but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases cases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed, and Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were required to be isolated during the year 1960.

### **Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

It is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service. This duty is performed by their Area Medical Officers.

### **Ambulance Service.**

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council now administers the Ambulance Service.

### **Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.**

Samples of Milk, Ice-Cream, Water and samples from the Council's Swimming Baths were submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination during the year.

### **Water Supplies.**

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from Gwyne-Fawr Reservoir situated in the Black Mountains, Breconshire; subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources. The water is of good quality and large supplementary quantities were obtained from Llanover Scheme. The water is sampled by the Board and from time to time by the Local Authority

(who submitted samples for bacteriological examination). Where necessary the supplies were chlorinated by the Board's Officials.

Number of houses with a piped supply ... ..	5,526
Number of Houses supplied from wells and springs ... .. (estimated)	20
Approximate population supplied from Public Water Mains, direct to houses ... ..	18,733

During the year inspections were made of Water Supplies and systems generally, where the pressure was reported to be low. Upon inspection it was found that in almost all cases the corrosion of pipes was responsible for inadequate supplies for all domestic purposes. In such cases, Informal Notices and where necessary Statutory Notices under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945, were served with complete success.

### **Sewers and Drains.**

The Council is a constituent Member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer.

### **Scavenging.**

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour twice weekly. The tip is situated at Field's Park, and also at the northern end of the District in Trinant.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

Regular inspections in connection with Rodent Control and Fly Breeding have been carried out, and extensive treatments for the elimination of rodents and flies are continually being undertaken.

### **Rainfall.**

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month.	Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 hours in inches.	Date.	No. of days with 0.01 ins. or more.
January ...	6.84	0.97	24- 1-60	19
February ...	5.64	1.38	26- 2-60	14
March ...	4.28	0.91	12- 3-60	11
April ...	3.58	1.15	2- 4-60	11
May ...	2.72	1.03	12- 5-60	8
June ...	3.42	1.18	7- 6-60	12
July ...	5.58	1.48	16- 7-60	23
August ...	5.57	0.85	23- 8-60	18
September ...	7.71	1.68	30- 9-60	14
October ...	10.92	1.60	1-10-60	19
November ...	13.37	1.50	26-11-60	27
December ...	7.49	2.50	3-12-60	20
Total ...	77.12	2.50	3-12-60	196

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.

Height above Sea Level : 539.9 feet.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

### Housing.

Some opinions say " That the housing problem will never be solved "; conversely, other opinions say, " Ten years will see a solution."

A short review shows :

- (i) Houses under Council ownership total 1,594 at the end of the year.
- (ii) A further phase of 152 are in various stages of construction.
- (iii) A contemplated additional 44 houses to be built in order to complete development at Trinant.
- (iv) 170 houses have now been demolished to date; leaving a figure of perhaps 30 or 40 to be dealt with. Always remembering that this number does take into account, houses under Council control, such as the—



Fifty Arcon Bungalows, Pentwynmawr, and  
the

Fifty-six at "The Ranks" and "High  
Street," Abercarn.

The Members will be aware that the application list for Council Houses continues to remain at an approximate five hundred.

A ten-year programme of work, building at the average of one house per week.

While everyone is aware that the rehousing of the aged citizens poses a very special problem; very many ideas have been advanced in regard to the size, shape and amenities to be provided in the housing units to be built to accommodate these Senior Citizens.

Why not showers, instead of baths? Why not showers say 1 to every 4 persons? These ambulant, but old persons, often find great difficulty in getting into and out of baths, even of a low down type. Showers may help reduce costs, certainly showers with a stool to sit on, would offer less difficulty than baths to the aged. Perhaps the Housing Committee would like to consider this suggestion, together with a communal room where the Senior Citizens could meet, rest and knit and natter at their leisure.

Time and time again they complain that they are lonely, that they have nowhere to go.

I have reason to believe that such facilities if provided, could possibly attract additional subsidies.

### **Ownership.**

It cannot but be repeated that change of ownership continues almost unabated. Needless to say the policy of the Council plays a great part in all this, in making monies available by way of Mortgage to applicants who apply to purchase properties in the Urban Area.

As can be seen from the following tables the Council have assisted one thousand borrowers in this way.

Perhaps in the next decade almost all the properties in the Area will either be under the control of this Authority or owner/occupied, particularly if we get a continuing period of industrial stability and all that goes with such stability. It is more than pleasing to know that this Authority will loan 100% to borrowers by way of Mortgage. A policy that can only but help the Authority and the Mortgagor.

In the year under review 80 applications were approved; this follows the 79 granted in the year 1959.

The tables set out are self-explanatory and are as follows:—

STATISTICS AS TO ADVANCES TO BORROWERS BY WAY OF MORTGAGE.  
*Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.*

					<i>Amount Advanced. £</i>
		<i>Number.</i>			
Originally advanced to 31-3-60	...	370	...	171,904	
Advances during year	...	21	...	17,184	
Total as at 31st March, 1961		391	...	189,088	

*Housing Act, 1949.*

Originally advanced to 31-3-60	...	461	...	314,545
Advances during year	...	80	...	46,644
Total as at 31st March, 1961		541	...	361,189

SUMMARY.

<i>Original Advances.</i>				<i>Outstanding 31st March, 1961.</i>		
<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>			<i>Number.</i>	<i>Oustanding.</i>	
	£					£
391 ...	189,088	S.D. Acqn. Acts ...		224 ...		113,673
23 ...	14,112	Housing Act, 1925		— ...		—
541 ...	361,189	Housing Act, 1949		480 ...		279,841
				<hr/>		<hr/>
955 ...	564,389			704 ...		393,514

**Advances to Borrowers by way of Mortgage as at 31st March, 1961.**  
**Analysis of Amounts Outstanding.**

H.A. 1925.	H.A. 1949.	S.D.A. Acts.	Total Nos.	Outstanding Balances.	Total Amounts.	H.A. 1925.	H.A. 1949.	S.D.A. Acts.
—	9	3	12	Under £50 ... ..	494	—	362	132
—	18	11	29	£50—£100 ... ..	2,330	—	1,453	877
—	97	45	142	£100—£250	24,876	—	17,223	7,653
—	120	72	192	£250—£500	68,550	—	42,402	26,148
—	91	47	138	£500—£750	85,229	—	56,603	28,626
—	64	22	86	£750—£1,000	72,781	—	54,343	18,438
—	62	17	79	£1,000—£1,500	95,502	—	75,525	19,977
—	19	7	26	£1,500—£2,000	43,752	—	31,930	11,822
—	—	—	—	Over £2,000 ... ..	—	—	—	—
—	480	224	704	Total outstanding 31/3/61 ... ..	£393,514	—	279,841	113,673

## **Improvement Grants.**

Forty-three applications were approved for Improvement Grants in order that the applicants, who were owner occupants in all cases, to have modern facilities, such as :—

An internal or accessible water closet.

A piped hot water supply.

Installation of bathroom (where none at present exist).

Extensions or enlargements to existing kitchenettes, livingrooms, or extra bedroom accommodation, etc., as under the Housing Act, 1949, and latterly under the Housing and House Purchase Act, 1959.

## **Improvement Grants under the above-mentioned Act.**

(a) Number of Improvements Grants, 1960-61 ...	43
(b) Total number of Improvements Grants, 1949-1960 inclusive ... ..	150
(c) Amount of Improvement Grants, 1960-61 ...	£8,307
(d) Total amount of Improvement Grants, 1949-1960 inclusive ... ..	£30,007

## **Improvement Loans under the above-mentioned Act.**

Facilities are made available under the Housing Act, 1949, whereby the Local Authority have power to loan money for the repair of houses, within the Urban Area, which are outside the province of the Improvement Sections :—

(1) Number of Improvement Loans, 1959-60 ...	17
(2) Total Improvement Loans, 1960 inclusive ...	£3,850
(3) Number of Improvement Loans, 1960 inclusive	50
(4) Total amount of Improvement Loans, 1949-60 inclusive ... ..	£11,063

The aforementioned Tables speak for themselves.

I am indebted to the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. T. H. Dixon, F.I.M.T.A., who has kindly supplied the under-mentioned figures up to March, 1961.

## Housing.

Number of Dwelling Houses inspected	...	...	827
Re-inspected	...	...	558
Number of premises at which repairs and improvements have been carried out	...	...	373
Warning Notices	...	...	514
Remedied without Notice	...	...	307
Statutory Notices served	...	...	214
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	208
Statutory Notices not complied with	...	...	6
Number of Houses in the Area	...	...	5,546
Number of Houses owned by the Council	...	...	1,594
Number of Dwelling Houses erected during the year by the Council	...	...	52
Number of New Houses erected privately in the year 1960	...	...	3

## Drainage.

Drainage stoppages dealt with, New Drainage connections, improvements and repairs	...	...	372
Disinfections carried out	...	...	16
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	8

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry :—

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 515
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 521
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil



(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in respects reasonable fit for habitation	164
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices ... ..	307
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for occupation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	373
3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	37
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair ... ..	37
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice ... ..	37
(a) By Owners ... ..	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
Number of houses under Circular 2845 ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	294
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered unfit after service of notice ...	288
(a) By Owners ... ..	288
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	20
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	19

(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1957—Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 85

2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 141

3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... 247

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 16

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 18

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 56

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

## Food Hygiene.

‘The old order changeth yielding forth anew.’

Sometimes I often think how much easier it was fifty years ago to be an Inspector of Nuisances than to be identified in a modern and complicated age as a Public Health Inspector.

Certainly our predecessors never had to contend with a Shops Act (Hours of Closing), Food Hygiene Regulations together with a multiplicity of Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practices associated with the Food Trade alone. Each in themselves an exact science, calling for specialised knowledge to have a thorough understanding of the subject.

Closer study of these complicated Acts, leaves one much like the absent-minded professor is depicted, muttering to oneself "The law is an ass, this is a lawyer's paradise."

Some time ago I had the pleasure of reading the Annual Report of this Authority for the year 1911. In my predecessor's portion of this report was the heading "Slaughterhouses." There were nine operating in the Urban Area. No meat was condemned during the year. To repeat, no meat, was condemned, but the walls of the slaughterhouses were whitewashed the statutory number of times.

Thinking over this statement it could be, of course, that I have missed the point, and it's simply this, all the people residing in the Urban Area were vegetarians. However, be that as it may, great changes have nevertheless taken place in these fifty years, a quick review shows that in the:—

### **Meat Trade.**

Refrigeration is now commonplace, and the Broiler Industry rules supreme; that the chemical feeding of animals bred for producing food for human consumption is the order of the day.

Small quantities of Aureomycin, Terramycin or Penicillin is now fed to animals, while your vegetables may all have been forced by chemical fertilization methods, or one has the advantage of having dehydrated vegetables lacking to a large degree in a high water content, sugar proteins or amine-acids and vitamins.

One also has a further choice of quick frozen foods or a complete lunch out of a variety of tins.

All this in the last fifty years. The result—food to-day has become platefuls of dehydrated nothingness.

It well may be that the next fifty years will bring food in the form of tablets.

One does not require the imagination of a Verne to envisage that a human disease of the future will be devitaminisation, or did a famous poet make the point, some three hundred and fifty years ago when he said—



“ Let me have men about that are fat.  
Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look,  
Methinks, he thinks too much;  
Such men are dangerous.”

Whatever one's serious thoughts may be, and the experts claim that obesity is a disease, it is time some one said, “Enough of this” the gullibility of the public knows no bounds. After all, “ A little of what you fancy does you good.”

In general a survey of all the food shops in the Area, shows that the above quotation does not apply in all shops in the Urban Area. The Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, have been in operation a little over five years.

Continual visits to food shops show that in many instances the Regulations are not being kept, or, only in a most haphazard manner.

It would seem that the heating units installed to make available a ready supply of hot water for the washing of hands, is used primarily for the making of tea. While the wash-hand basins are used for any other purpose than the washing of hands. I have observed that it is used to store shoes in, rolls of wrapping paper, etc.

Inspections show that the basins in other instances are very dirty, dusty, and it is obvious that they have not been used for their proper function for many months.

The Council have held two Food Hygiene Exhibitions, and lack of interest shown was completely frustrating. Two hundreds pamphlets of a synopsis of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been sent to the food shops in the Area without having the desired results.

How many of the general public object to the indifferent handling of food when persons handling foodstuffs do not take all reasonable precautions to prevent the risk of contamination—unwrapped sweets taken out of boxes by hand, why not “scoop”? Why not “tongs” when handling pastries from trays into bags.

Why not frequent changes of overalls, instead of dirty overalls with no buttons; sometimes these dirty overcoats or overalls are held together by pieces of string.

Why this attitude of indifference? Why this apathy on behalf of the general public? I feel, too, that the Chamber of Trades could do more in this attempt to raise the standard of Food Hygiene in the shops in the Urban Area.

One has only to observe in the nearby towns and cities that almost all the foodstuffs are served and the claim can be made "untouched by hand."

The Council have previously taken action by way of Court proceedings, also by way of trying to educate food handlers.

It seems that further Court action will be necessary in order to get the standard laid down in the Regulations. The standard the general public can demand by right.

## **INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS.**

### **Milk and Dairies.**

Certain registration and licensing duties remain with the Local Authority in addition to the supervision of distributors and dairy premises, and the taking of samples for bacteriological and biological examination.

Additionally, samples were taken and tested for keeping quality. (Methylene Blue Reduction Tests). The Phosphatase Test is undertaken to ascertain whether the milk has been properly Pasteurised.

Number of Registered Distributors	...	...	37
Number of Premises registered as Dairies	...	...	37
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	19
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	37
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation "Sterilised"	...	...	14
Number of Supplementary Licences granted	...	...	4

From the 31st December, the function of issuing Licences for Milk Vendors, in all the Urban Districts, will be taken over by the Monmouthshire County Council. It is entirely unnecessary for me to add that sampling and testing in the Urban District will continue to be carried out by the Local Authority.

## Meat and Other Foods.

A large quantity of tinned and other foods were inspected during the year. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

38½ lbs. cheese	101 tins chopped ham.
8 lbs. chopped pork.	220 tins milk.
12 lbs. ox tongue.	35 tins beans.
3 tins pork brawn.	34 tins peaches.
47 tins stewed steak.	81 lbs. corned beef.
60 tins pears.	8 tins Irish stew.
56 tins peas.	3 tins hamburgers.
54 tins tomatoes.	5 tins. cooked ham.
10 tins pork roll.	15 lbs. butter.
32 tins cream.	2 tins veal.
3 tins cherries.	35 tins chopped pork.
1 tin carrots.	1 tin pineapples.
35 lbs. veal.	5 tins ham and tongue.
15 tins salmon.	3 tins minced pork.
10 chickens (26½ lbs.).	38 tins tongue.
42 tins chopped pork.	34 tins luncheon meat.
28 packets beefex oxo.	5 tins broad beans.
1 tin jellied veal.	6 sponge cakes.
2 pots jam.	18 lbs. jellied veal.
14 tins fruit salad.	119 lbs. sausage.
16 tins strawberries.	1 box cheese.
4 lbs. luncheon meat.	62 tins shrimps (peeled).
10 lbs. liver.	18 lbs. shoulder ham.
14 lbs. bacon.	12 tins oranges.
6 lbs. sliced peaches.	184 lbs. biscuits.
1 tin cutlets.	10 lbs. tea.
23 tins minced beef loaf.	33 tins pilchards.
10 lbs. Horlicks powder.	(Various quantities of sweets,
15 packets mashed potato powder.	chocolates, biscuits, etc., that
6 tins sardines.	were damaged and unfit for
695 lbs. cooked ham.	human consumption, as the
140 tins corned beef.	result of a fire.).

The following is the number of animals slaughtered and the amount condemned in meat and offal, as being unfit for human consumption :—

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Slaughtered ...	63	42	4	571	315
Number Inspected ...	63	42	4	571	315
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	42	31	—	114	—
Percentage of number affected diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	66.6	73.8	—	19.8	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ is con- demned for Tuberculosis	9	5	—	—	3
Percentage of the num- ber inspected with Tuberculosis ... ..	14.2	11.9	—	—	.95

The above figures are only in relation to the first quarter of the year, in respect of the two private Slaughterhouses in the Area. Both were below the standard laid down in the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. The Council will be aware that negotiations and the probable acquisition of one of the two Slaughterhouses in question will be completed during the year by the Council.

It is the Council's intention to demolish the Slaughterhouse and redevelop the site for housing purposes. The other private Slaughterhouse in question is now no longer operating as the owner failed to comply with the standards within the time allowed.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1960.

	Type of Property.				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses.	All other (including Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agricultural.
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	4	5,687	439	6,124	47
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	2	136	42	180	3
(b) Survey under the Act ... ..	4	648	64	716	31
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	1	63	84	148	4
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections ... .. (To be completed only if figures are readily available).	23	931	82	1,036	7
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II (which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major) ...	1	12	—	13	1
(Minor) ...	3	—	57	60	3
(b) Mice (Major) ...	—	4	3	7	1
(Minor) ...	1	62	11	74	9
V. Number of Infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. ... (Figures should not exceed those given by Sect. IV).	5	78	71	154	14



	Type of Property.				Agriculture.
	(1) Local Authority.	(2) Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses.	(3) All other (including Business Premises).	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments ... .. (To be completed only if figures are readily available).					Figures not available
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

The table as set out above is a complete Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1960. Additionally, two sewer treatments were carried out in February/March and September/October of 1960. The following are the figures:—

	No. of Manholes.		Bait taken Poison.		Total.
	Treated.	Prebait.	Small.	Good.	
February/March ...	286	58	41	17	116
September/October ..	298	62	36	26	124

All individual complaints during the year were dealt with, which entailed several visits by the Rodent Operator to one single reported case.

### Factories and Workshops.

Total number of Factories in the Area ...	8
Total number of workshops in the Area ...	22
	<hr/>
	30
	<hr/>

The factories and workshops are periodically inspected in order that they comply with the Factories Act, 1937.

### Number of Defects.

Particulars	Found Remedied		Referred No. of to H.M. Prosecutions	
			Inspc	tor cutions
Want of Cleanliness ...	3	3	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	1	1	—	—
Want of Drainage to Floors ...	—	—	—	—
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION:				
Other Nuisances ...	7	7	—	—
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	7	7	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	11	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### Licensed Slaughtermen.

Several applications were received and granted by the Council during the year.

H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (London), D.P.H. (Liverpool),  
Medical Officer of Health.

LLOYD G. HALE, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H.,  
Public Health Inspector.







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